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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 152



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16 August 1979

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MALARIA CASES ON THE INCREASE

Zurich NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG in German 11 Jul 79 p 5

[Article by sda]

[Text] Thanks to the World Health Organization (WHO) campaign against smallpox, it appears that mankind will be able to celebrate the disappearance of this disease from the earth within a few months. The situation is different for malaria: As was recently pointed out by participants in an international seminar on malaria in Dar es Salaam, this infectious disease, which is transported by mosquitoes, is gaining ground alarmingly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Representatives of 11 African nations stated that more than a million persons died annually in Africa alone.

Resistant Mosquitoes

Malaria, which is also known as swamp fever, is as old as mankind itself. It is mentioned in Egyptian, Indian and Chinese texts and there is evidence of it in Homer and Hippocrates. Alexander the Great, the most famous conqueror of antiquity, was himself conquered by a little mosquito. He contracted malaria in the swamps of Babylon and died of it in 323 BC. Swamp fever was rampant among the Crusaders in the middle Ages, and claimed its victims during the wars in Korea and Vietnam. It has been said that, during World War II, malaria was a more effective defense against American troops in the Pacific islands than the Japanese army.

Malaria is a disease that develops in a human-mosquito-human cycle. It is caused by a blood parasite, the sporozoon Plasmodium, first discovered in 1880, which is transmitted to humans by the Anopheles mosquito. The parasite enters the bloodstream and causes attacks of fever and chills. The most severe form of malaria, which is caused by Plasmodium falciparum, can cause death. The Anopheles mosquito lives in all the hot and damp areas of the world, especially near seas, rivers and swamps.

For a long time, quinine, which is obtained from the bark of trees originally occurring in South America and which was discovered in the second half of the 17th century, was the only drug against malaria. There are currently various synthetic drugs of varying effectiveness. As ascertained in 62 out of 107 malaria-infested countries, mosquitoes have developed a strong resistance to pesticides, especially DDT.

Alarming Figures

Malaria is the most widespread infectious disease in the world. Almost one-quarter of the earth's population is attacked by it and it is estimated that 1.5 million people die of it annually. According to WHO data, the number of malaria patients has more than doubled in the past 5 years. WHO specialists give three reasons for the spread of the disease: First, the premature stoppage of the extermination campaign waged by the WHO from 1955 to 1965; second, the increase in international tourism and the movement of individuals from infested areas into previously uninfested regions; and third, construction of new dams and irrigation plants, the environs of which provide a favorable milieu for the malaria mosquito. The largest increase in the number of malaria cases was reported from Southern and Southeastern Asia, especially Bangladesh, Thailand and Sri Lanka (Ceylon). In India there were approximately 100,000 cases in 1963, 6 million in 1967 and 12 million by last year. There was a striking increase in southern Turkey. It is feared that malaria will spread to the entire eastern Mediterranean and the Near East.

No Disappearance in Sight

Fighting malaria is difficult and costly. The drying out of swamps and clearing of water courses represent practically insoluble tasks for developing countries. And yet, according to estimates from the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO), a program for exterminating malaria all over the world would entail an amount that is not half as large as the money spent daily by industrialized nations for military purposes. Science will certainly conquer malaria some day. But at present, its disappearance is in the far-off future. The developing countries will have to continue living with it for a long time.

7072

CSO: 5400

OFFICIAL DETAILS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MEASLES

Buenos Aires CONFIRMADO in Spanish 19 Jul 79 p 25

[Excerpt] A total of 2 million children between the ages of 9 months and 3 years were vaccinated against measles during the course of the extensive health drive conducted at a cost of \$4.5 million between Monday, 2 July and Thursday, 12 July, by the Ministry of Social Welfare's Secretariat of Preventive Medicine. In order to carry out the mass-scale vaccinations (which will certainly cause a considerable drop in the already low measles morbidity in the country) 3 million doses of the best type of vaccine that exists in the world were purchased. They consist of a prefilled, disposable syringe, the cost of which amounts to \$1.00 per unit.

Ship-of-the-Line Capt Dr Adolfo Julio Maillie, undersecretary of the aforementioned ministry, gave CONFIRMADO very detailed information on the campaign that was carried out all over the national territory with just one exception: The drive will be conducted in Formosa Province when the serious problem posed by the floods has been surmounted.

[Question] What is the actual seriousness of the outbreak which occurred in the interior section of the country before the campaign began?

[Answer] Only about 90 cases were reported in Mendoza Province. On the other hand, there has been no outbreak at all thus far in the federal capital.

[Question] Did the campaign call for revaccination?

[Answer] Only children under 3 years of age who received the vaccine before they reached the age of 1 year were revaccinated.

[Question] Is there evidence of a decreasing trend in the disease in Argentina?

[Answer] There is. So much so that we can predict that, in the next 2 or 3 years, the annual incidence may decline as much as 50 percent in comparison with the present rates. It must be borne in mind that, in 1973, there were 21,400 cases in the entire country; in 1974, there were 23,800; in 1975,

23,108; in 1976, a peak number of 39,000 occurred; and in 1977, it dropped to 36,000. Thus far this year, 9,000 cases have been reported; which shows that the indexes have begun to decline very significantly.

[Question] Does the disease occur as a result of the presence of certain socioeconomic conditions?

[Answer] As a rule, the complications appear in children who have a background marked by malnutrition, or who come from homes with a low cultural level. In such cases, measles fosters the introduction of other bacteria, with consequences that can be quite serious.

[Question] Are there data available on mortality?

[Answer] Yes. Depending on the time when the outbreaks occurred and the sections of the country in which they appeared, the mortality has ranged from 7 to 15 percent.

2909

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

HEALTH MINISTERS' MEETING--The Brazilian and Colombian health ministers will meet from 29 July to 2 August in Leticia, Colombia, to study problems related to similar diseases in both countries. According to Brazilian Health Minister Castro Lima, the Brazilian delegation will comprise 10 members who will offer suggestions for studies. In addition experiences in the health field will be exchanged. [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Jul 79 PY]

CSO: 5400

JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC SWEEPING COUNTRY

Appeal to Citizens

Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 17 Jul 79 p 2 AU

[CTK report: "Health Personnel's Appeal to Citizens"]

[Text] In recent weeks an increased number of cases of a disease affecting, in particular, children and youth has occurred in the CSSR territory. In some regions the disease acquired the character of an epidemic.

The disease was identified in the shortest possible time as contagious jaundice, epidemics of which occur after certain long intervals in all countries of the world and are nothing exceptional. Although the disease sets in suddenly, it is not accompanied by serious complications or death. It is cured in 2-3 weeks without after effects. There is an adequate supply of the necessary medication and medical materials to cope with the situation. The Czechoslovak health administration's bodies have taken all legal measures necessary to effectively treat the sick and to prevent the disease from spreading further. In view of the disease's greater occurrence in certain regions, hospitals have set up temporary wards. With few exceptions Pioneer camps and other forms of children's recreation can be organized. The health service has appropriately amended the regimen of children's recreational facilities and stepped up medical supervision and the care for children. Teams of experts of the Czechoslovak state health service are working around the clock. The health bodies are appealing to the citizens to visit the regional physician or pediatrician concerning any feverishness and to obey exactly the instructions of physicians or the health service. The Health Ministries of the Czech and Slovak Socialist Republics thank the public for its understanding shown for the legal measures adopted to protect the population, particularly the children, and to ask the citizens to support further instructions.

Warning Against Panic

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Jul 79 p 2 AU

[Article by Zedna Stepankova in the column "A Note": "The Best Collaborator--Reason"]

[Text] Yesterday's press familiarized our citizens with the report of the Ministries of Health of the Czech and the Slovak Socialist Republics about the occurrence of contagious jaundice on our territory. It is never easy to determine exactly the source and the cause of a disease, particularly if it occurs at several localities of the territory and even assumes an epidemic character at some places. However, the diagnosis is the basic prerequisite for adopting fundamental measures.

The efforts of the organs of the state health administration, which mobilized a large collective of physicians and other specialists against the disease, were crowned with success. They have enacted and continue to enact all legal measures to effectively treat the patients and to prevent a further spread of the disease. The disease concerned is--as is known--contagious jaundice, the epidemic occurrence of which is repeated in certain long-term intervals in all countries of the world and is thus nothing exceptional in the CSSR. The beginning of the disease is sudden but it is not accompanied by any serious complications or deaths.

The very name of the disease--contagious jaundice--evokes unpleasant feelings, which is--after all--true of diseases in general. However, any panic accompanied moreover by all kinds of speculations would only be harmful. The medical personnel know about the disease, they have taken the appropriate measures and there is enough medication. Specialized units of the Czechoslovak state health administration are working literally without resting and are in full operation. They are thankful for the understanding and help they receive from other segments of the state administration and from the public. One of the physician's best collaborators in liquidating the disease is of course reason. Therefore, we repeat again the information of the two ministries--that any febrile symptoms must be speedily reported to the district physician or a pediatrician and that the instructions of the health office must be observed.

CSO: 5400

INDIA

BRIEFS

MYSTERIOUS CRIPPLING DISEASE--Lucknow, July 6--A paralytic attack that left hundreds of villagers in Uttar Pradesh handicapped four years ago was caused by contaminated "matri dal," an expert study has shown, reports UNI. The study, conducted by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, found that the attack affected most males and children in their lower limbs, but did not affect women. The five-man research group, headed by Mr S.H. Zaidi, has recommended a ban on cultivation of "matri dal" and withdrawal of seed stock of this legume. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jul 79 p 7]

CHOLERA DEATHS--New Delhi, 22 Jul (AFP)--Seven people have died of a cholera epidemic in Gonda town and its suburbs in the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh State, it was reported. The reports said, quoting "official sources" in the state government, that another 100 people were inflicted by the disease. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 22 Jul 79 BK]

CSO: 5400

CHOLERA REPORTED IN EAST, WEST MALAYSIA

Cholera Infected Area

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 May 79 p 9

[Text]

KUCHING, Fri. — Kuching District has been declared a cholera-infected area following the confirmation of two cases during the last few days.

One of the victims, an elderly woman, died of the disease at Kampung Pelaman Qsep, about 13 miles from here.

State Director of Medical Services, Dr. Tan Yaw Kwang, said the de-

partment was taking all preventive measures to contain the spread of the disease.

He advised the people to boil all drinking water, eat only freshly-cooked food and observe a high standard of personal hygiene.

All cases of diarrhoea and vomiting should be reported to the nearest health centre or clinic, added Dr. Tan. — Bernama.

One Case in Malacca

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 May 79 p 8

[Text]

MALACCA, Sat. — Medical authorities here reported one confirmed case of cholera today at the General Hospital.

The patient, a 55-year-old woman, from Tanjung Keling village, 6 1/4 miles from here, was admitted on Thursday, suffering from diarrhoea.

Hospital authorities have taken control measures and made the ward

where the woman was held out of bounds to visitors.

The patient's condition has been described as satisfactory.

Health teams visited the Tanjung Keling area this morning to inoculate all contacts, take food and water samples and chlorinate the wells.

TYPHOID OUTBREAK IN KELANTAN STATE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 20 Jun 79 p 6

[Text]

KOTA BARU, Tues. — Another typhoid case was reported today in Kelantan bringing the number of reported cases to 110, State Deputy Health Director Dr. Narajan Singh said today.

The worst hit district is Pasir Mas with 45 confirmed cases. Of these, 35 are schoolchildren.

Dr. Narajan said the outbreak of typhoid during the months of May and June was a yearly occurrence but this year's cases were more than the previous years'. No deaths have been reported, however.

"The disease is easily spread through food by healthy carriers and measures are being taken to ensure that the carriers are treated," he said.

Check

He said the health department was working closely with the education department and other agencies to

check the spread of the disease. Health pamphlets had also been distributed.

He said about 13,000 people, mostly schoolchildren from Pasir Mas district, had been immunised, houses and wells disinfected and about 300 latrines constructed.

Dr. Narajan added that Pasir Mas was an epidemic prone district and was worst affected during the cholera outbreak last year.

Symptom

He said poor living conditions and unhygienic habits had contributed to the spread of the disease.

The symptom for typhoid is persistent fever which may last for three weeks. He advised those who have fevers for more than three days to seek treatment.

He also advised the public to consume only cooked food and boiled water, observe personal hygiene and to keep their surroundings clean.

CSO: 5400

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

MALARIA ERADICATION AID--Tokyo, 23 Jul (KYODO)--Notes were exchanged in Islamabad Sunday on Japan's extension of a grant aid of up to Yen 600 million to Pakistan for supply of insecticide and equipment necessary for an urban malaria eradication program, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. It said the extension of the aid was decided at the request of the Pakistani Government. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 23 Jul 79 OW]

CSO: 5400

MEASLES, FLU EPIDEMICS CAUSE DEATHS

Measles Vaccinations, Flu Epidemic

Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 27 Jun 79 p 7

[Excerpts] Approximately 9,000 schoolchildren in our capital have already received vaccinations against rubella [German measles] and measles since the campaign of the Ministry of Public Health began last Monday.

The Public Health Ministry technicians are using pressure injectors, which makes the inoculation a completely painless operation, and it is expected that, with the use of this dynamic procedure, an additional 3,000 children attending 16 schools included in the daily vaccination plan will file past the health agency's trained personnel today.

A Flu Outbreak Has Caused Absenteeism

According to statements made to LA MANANA yesterday by the head of the Public Health Ministry's Epidemiology Department, Dr Leonel Perez Moreira, the vaccination campaign has been partially upset by the pupil absenteeism caused by an outbreak of flu, the causative virus of which has not yet been isolated. The aforementioned specialist was of the opinion that the flu outbreak has affected 20 percent of the school population, something which has also caused widespread absenteeism from the vaccination campaign. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that this group of unvaccinated children will be provided for by the campaign once the vacations this July have ended. When sources associated with the Primary Education Council were questioned, they announced that the number of students absent from school is similar to that in previous years, detracting significance from this situation.

Favorable Reception for the Campaign

Dr Perez Moreira also stressed the excellent reception of the campaign on the part of parents, 100 percent of whom have allowed their children to receive a vaccination. The publicity given to the vaccination campaign by the news media has also caused the stations set up in the schools, as well as the permanent stations to receive a sizable number of children under the age of 3 years as well as adults from the surrounding areas.

In addition, inoculations are being given at the mother-child centers in Union and Cerro, at the Cerrito Health Centers, and at the health sub-centers at Cerrito Norte and Jardines del Hipodromo.

Inoculation Deadline, Canelones Next

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Jun 79 p 5

[Excerpts] "The only problem that has arisen during these first 48 hours of vaccination against rubella and measles in Montevideo has been the flu epidemic which has stricken between 20 and 30 percent of the total student body at the educational centers which have served as a base for the preventive drive."

The foregoing statement was made to EL PAIS last night by Dr Leonel Perez Moreira, head of epidemiology for the Public Health Ministry, who remarked that "the definitive figures on the number of those immunized are not yet known," although "the situation appears to be very satisfactory."

Perez Moreira told EL PAIS that the vaccination campaign would continue in the capital until Friday. Then, it will be postponed until the resumption of school activity which will be interrupted by the winter recess. On 15 July, it will continue in Montevideo and Canelones.

He stated: "When all the children have been immunized, we shall carry on in the country's other departments, following the three main routes. The goal is to curb rubella, thus assuring a healthy childhood during this 'International Year of the Child.'"

600 Measles Cases in Rivera

Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish 28 Jun 79 p 1

[Text] Recently, there have been 600 cases of measles reported in Rivera, 60 of which (10 percent) have been hospitalized because of complications, and there have been two deaths. The information was provided by our correspondent, Zafiro Antunez, who made a survey of the department among medical circles and the population.

Our reporters in Montevideo likewise contacted the head of hygiene for the Public Health Ministry, Dr Leonel Perez Moreira, who stated that they had not yet received the details on the situation that exists in Rivera.

Two Deaths

The measles epidemic reported in the northern department quickly amounted to 600 cases. Of that number, 60 had to be hospitalized because of complications and the progress of the disease. There have already been two deaths

The inquiries that have been made make it possible to report that the focus was not confined to a particular area, but affected all social sectors alike, and several departmental areas.

The cases have caused alarm among the elementary and high school populations, and high rates of absenteeism from school have been noted.

Sources which were queried remarked that there is a sufficient supply of rubella and measles vaccine, but that mass-scale vaccination campaigns have not been started.

According to these same sources, a meeting will be held tomorrow by the pediatricians in the departmental capital, in an effort to evaluate the situation, and to decide upon measures to be adopted.

Frequent Cases in the North

When Dr Perez Moreira was questioned, he said that no details on the progress of the epidemic have been officially received as yet.

He claimed that constant requests had been made for detailed information on the annual status of this type of disease, because there have been reports to the effect that the cases are more frequent than usual.

Deaths Officially Denied

Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 29 Jun 79 p 11

[Text] Rivera--In view of the accounts that have been disseminated regarding deaths caused by measles at the local hospital, EL DIA obtained an interview with its administrator, Jose Posadas Fernandez, who at the outset categorically denied that there have been fatal cases, or even that physicians are alarmed over a possible measles epidemic.

He also told us that the first cases were reported during April, involving a benign form, and they increased in May, becoming more serious in June; adding that, as had been planned, the vaccination of children was to begin during the next few days, in accordance with previous orders.

With respect to these reports that have been disseminated from this departmental capital itself, EL DIA preferred to await the official report, which could have been obtained yesterday from the hospital's administrator. In view of the fact that it was impossible to locate its director, Dr Paiva, it chose not to repeat statements which did not originate in an authorized source of information. Hence our silence to date.

Vaccinations for Rivera Preschoolers

Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 29 Jun 79 p 8

[Text] In view of the number of cases of measles reported in Rivera, it has been decided to vaccinate all children from the age of 6 months to 5 years, inclusive, who have not been stricken with the disease.

Yesterday, a first announcement made by the local authorities and supplied by our correspondent, Martin Correa, stated that, in view of the many cases of measles in the town of Rivera, the local public health director, Dr Delivio Paiva Olaizola, and the multi-specialized medical team formed for this purpose, had ordered the activation of an intensive campaign of anti-measles vaccination.

It continued that, for this purpose, all children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years who have not had the disease are to be inoculated. Special schedules have been established for today, tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday, 1 July, from 0800 to 1500 hours, on the premises of the polyclinics of Rivera Chico, the health center and the departmental hospital of the border capital.

Despite this frequent incidence of measles, in fact a calm mood prevails among those affiliated with public health in the local area; inasmuch as all the pertinent measures have been adopted, the treatment of patients is being provided properly and preventive measures to cope with the situation have also been adopted.

As for rumors that those stricken with this epidemic of measles have increased in number, and that there are more individuals hospitalized, well informed sources in the local hospital claimed that they were completely untrue.

When questioned by reporters, Dr Paiva Olaizola and Dr Marta Burgos, chief physician in the Ministry of Public Health's Communicable Diseases Department, declined in an amiable manner to make statements, and claimed that there would be periodic announcements, through press releases, regarding the course of the disease and all matters pertaining to measures and the results that are being accrued.

2909

CSO: 5400

GASTROENTERITIS, MEASLES, MANGE EPIDEMICS REPORTED

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 10 Jul 79 p 43

[Article by Marínela Hernandez]

[Text] Epidemic outbreaks of gastroenteritis, measles and mange have occurred among the 97 disaster-stricken families who were relocated to houses improvised from boards, cardboard and sheetmetal on the Petare-Guarenas highway, as the result of unsanitary conditions and the lack of ongoing medical care.

This situation was reported by members of the Pro-Disaster Victims Committee from El Carmen, El Milagro, Bracero, Rafael Calder and Los Gochos barrios. Pedro Bruguera, Elías Vera, Rafael Salazar and Belkis de Arabia were called upon to present the problems being faced by the disaster-stricken families who were brought to the Petare-Guarenas highway location 15 days ago.

They explained that despite the help received from the Ministry of Health, Fire Department and Civil Defense, the situation is critical for the disaster victims.

One of the principal problems they face is the lack of sanitation which contributed to the epidemic outbreaks of gastroenteritis, mange and measles.

They said that the medical care they had received up to now was inadequate and requested the urgent permanent installation of a dispensary for this improvised barrio of disaster victims.

"It is unhealthful for 97 families to have only one bath which consists of a hole leading to the river which flows nearby."

Also the improvised camps are too small for the numerous families. When it rains, the water pours through them, contributing to the presence of infectious diseases, particularly among the children.

The Council Has Not Helped

The members of the Pro-Disaster Victims Committee are categorical in their statement that they have received no help from the municipal council.

"The municipal officials only come here to make promises; however, they never follow through," they said.

A few yards from these camps, laborers from the Petareno Council have been building barracks for the past 15 days. "In spite of this critical situation, those laborers are working at a snail's pace; and there is no authority to make them build the barracks quickly," they stated.

They feel that the municipal authorities should pay more attention to the disaster-stricken families: "We need transportation," they said, "to take sick children to the health centers, bring in potable water on a continuing basis, bring in food supplies with regularity and provide scheduled mass transportation for the workers."

8143

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS--Barquisimeto, 3 Jul--Health authorities have confirmed the discovery of several cases of infectious hepatitis in the village of El Molino, near Quibor, capital of the Jimenez district, Lara state. The regional health commissioner, Dr Jose Agustin Mujica, announced that exactly 70 cases had been detected and that it was determined that the townspeople had drunk polluted water for lack of an aqueduct network and contracted the disease. Health specialists are in El Molino taking the steps needed to control the disease which, in any event, is not considered serious. [Text] [Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 4 Jul 79 p C-3] 8143

LEISHMANIASIS CASES IN PIAROA--Puerto Ayacucho, 3 Jul (VENPRES)--Regional health authorities have determined that the greatest incidence of Leishmaniasis in the country is among the Piara Indian population of San Juan de Manapiare and its vicinity, according to a report made today by health specialist Jose Jaimes Araujo. Jaimes Araujo met with the governor of the Amazonas territory, Jose Gonzalez Herrera, to inform him of the control and treatment programs which are being implemented in those areas to combat this disease. "Leishmaniasis (a disease which is transmitted by a mosquito and which localizes in the mucous membranes and produces sores) has affected 70 percent of the Piara population, half of whom have infections of the nasal mucous membranes," the health specialist said. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 4 Jul 79 p 26] 8143

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

SMALLPOX, POLIO ERADICATED--The Government has succeeded in combating polio and smallpox through inoculations programmes by the Ministry of Health, senior medical superintendent at the University Teaching Hospital, Dr Richard Carruthers, told visiting president of the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs, Mr Tom Chapman, yesterday. Speaking during Mr Chapman's tour of various projects financed by the association of Round Tables in Zambia at the UTH, Dr Carruthers said cases of polio and smallpox were almost unheard of especially in Lusaka. Mr Chapman, who will be in Zambia for two days is on a world tour of clubs affiliated to the world council, is keen to promote involvement through active citizenship and fellowship. Mr Chapman, is the guest of Lusaka round tablers, and was yesterday taken around the Round Table IYC projects. President of the Association of Round Tables in Zambia, Mr Bob Field revealed that the association had raised K120,000 this year for various projects based on the International Year of the Child. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 24 Jul 79 p 5]

CSO: 5400

INTA REPORTS ADVANTAGES OF NEW FOOT-AND-MOUTH VACCINE

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jul 79 p 10

[Text] Several years of research, tests and experiments carried out by the INTA [National Institute of Agricultural Technology], through the virology department of the Veterinary Sciences Research Center, made it possible to produce the INTA oily vaccine against foot and mouth disease.

This vaccine, manufactured in cooperation with the Pan-American Foot and Mouth Disease Center and private Argentine laboratories, has shown remarkable results owing to the advantages that it has proven to have over the traditional saponin hydroxide.

Laboratory and Field Experiments

The experiments which back these results were carried out at the INTA facilities on the Valdez peninsula in Chubut Province, and at the Veterinary Sciences Research Center at Castelar, in Buenos Aires Province. Tests were also conducted in areas adjacent to the Buenos Aires district of Hipolito Yrigoyen, in approximately 100 establishments with a total of nearly 10,000 animals, mainly bovine.

The oil anti-foot and mouth vaccines, with their longer lasting immunity, offer a promising outlook for the reduction of inoculations from three to two per year. In certain outlying areas with a lesser density of livestock and less movement of cattle, the immunization might even be limited to one vaccination.

2909

CSO: 5400

FOOT-AND-MOUTH VACCINE SHORTAGES CALLED 'TEMPORARY'

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 19 Jul 79 p 10

[Text] The possibility of importing anti-foot and mouth disease vaccine was broached after representatives from the Argentine Foundation for Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease expressed to officials of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock their concern over the obstacles that were confronted in obtaining the product during the last vaccination campaign, which had to be extended in some areas so that livestock raisers would have time to procure the necessary doses and to comply with that preventive measure.

The foregoing was learned from official sources which blamed the temporary shortage of vaccine on the delay in making the analyses on the last production series from the manufacturing laboratories, as a result of weather disturbances which hampered the arrival of animals from immune areas for the pertinent tests in the main laboratories of the Health Defense Service.

Apart from that delay, the shortage was said to be also a result of a smaller production due to the higher quality that is required of the vaccine, which will interfere with the quantity until the manufacturing firms obtain the necessary facilities to meet the new standards.

The problems that have been noted during the last campaign will reportedly be precluded by the next vaccination in November, because by then the necessary volume of doses will be available. According to estimates, the production from the laboratories should increase about 30 percent between July and August.

Despite the favorable outlook, the concern voiced by the Argentine Foundation for Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (FADEFA) to the Undersecretariat of Livestock stressed that, in the future, any type of shortage, however temporary it might be, should be avoided. For this purpose, the government agency reportedly plans to call upon the manufacturing companies to report on their actual production capacity to meet the demand, because the intention is to preclude any shortage; and, in order to do so, imports of vaccine will even be made to speed up its distribution.

2909

CSO: 5400

SWINE FEVER: 160 DISEASED PIGS DESTROYED

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jun 79 p 15

[Text]

PENANG, Mon. — More than 160 diseased pigs have been destroyed at the city abattoir since the outbreak of swine fever in Penang.

Informed sources told the *New Straits Times* today that in May alone, more than 180 pigs affected by swine fever were destroyed.

"During the first week of this month, 30 more animals were deemed unfit for human consumption," the sources added.

Despite this, State Director of Veterinary Services Dr. Joseph Louis officially denied last week that there was a swine fever outbreak in

the State.

In the same breath, however, he confirmed that four cases of swine fever — two on Province Wellesley and two on Penang Island — had been detected.

According to a Food and Agriculture Organisation ruling, a confirmed case of swine fever means an outbreak of the disease which is highly contagious.

'No doubt'

Veterinary sources also disclosed that two pig sties — in Thean Teik Estate and Paya Terubong — have been affected by swine fever.

"There is no doubt about an outbreak here,"

the sources added.

Workers at the city abattoir said there had been an "unusually high number of rejected pigs at the abattoir since May".

"Normally, the number of rejected pigs is well below 10 a day and these rejects usually suffer from minor skin or other infections.

"This time, the diseased pigs were confirmed to have had swine fever," they said.

Dr. Louis last week appealed for calm, saying that a mass vaccination programme for the pig population in the State was being undertaken.

"Permits for the transportation of pigs from the island to the mainland and from the State to other States have been temporarily suspended," he added.

He was not available for comment today.

CSO: 5400

FOOT-AND-MOUTH VACCINE ORDERED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 20 Jul 79 p 5

[Text]

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development has ordered 100,000 vaccines worth about K38,000 from Kenya to fight the foot and mouth disease which has attacked cattle in Southern Province.

Director of Veterinary and Tsetse Control Services, Dr George Akafekwa, said in Lusaka yesterday that confirmation of the order would be made once the suitability of the vaccine was ascertained.

He said that so far the disease, which was first reported at Chuundu farm on the Zambia/Rhodesia border last month, has killed 42 cattle.

Thirty-eight of the animals died at the same farm and out of the total number of cattle killed, 32 were calves. Two others died in villages.

Dr Akafekwa said that the disease had been identified as "South African territory type one of foot and mouth disease." It last occurred in Zambia in 1973.

He said that his department

had, after identifying the disease, made enquiries with a number of countries including Kenya and Botswana for the vaccines and an antidote was found in Kenya.

"Although we have identified the disease as SAT-1, there may be other minor diseases connected with this type of virus. What we want to ascertain is whether the vaccine from Kenya can also be used against these," he said.

Dr Akafekwa said that at the moment, tests of the vaccine on the virus were being carried out in Britain.

He said that the use of the bi-valent drug would also act as an immunisation against type two of the disease in the same area as it had also occurred in the past.

Since the area was placed under quarantine on June 16, initial measures taken included setting up 16 picket posts manned by 55 workers.

He said that the teams operating in the area had identified six other places in addition to Chuundu farm where the disease was first noticed.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT BAN--The veterinary department in Southern Province is still enforcing measures to control the spread of the foot-and-mouth disease which broke out in the Livingstone/Kalomo area early last month. According to travellers arriving in Livingstone, veterinary officers were still mounting road blocks in the affected areas to ensure there was no livestock movements. [Text] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 27 Jul 79 p 9]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

FORESTS ATTACKED BY BEETLES--Twenty thousand hectares of forest in Czech Jizerske Hory have been attacked by beetles. The experts counted up to 2,000 caterpillars per tree branch. Since the stands involved have been already gravely weakened by industrial pollution which originates not only in Bohemian regions, but also "in the border regions of the GDR and Poland," the situation is considered unusually serious. Kcs 5,000,000 were granted for aerial spraying of pesticides. [Text] [Bonn DIE LANDWIRTSCHAFT DES OSTBLOCKS in German Vol 27 No 26, 6 Jul 79 p 7]

CSO: 2300

BRIEFS

NEW PEST CONTROL METHODS--At the experimental orchards of the Institute for Fruit Growing in Skierniewice, tests were conducted for reducing pests with the aid of useful insects which destroy larvae, caterpillars and pupae. Research conducted in Pruse (Skierniewice Voivodship) and elsewhere indicated that certain insects, including the sloe moth, red spider, [whitefly - szrotowka-bialaczka] and [grub - pasynek] which threaten apple-orchard crops, are destroyed by other predatory mites and chalcid flies. Research conducted also in other areas of Poland indicated that the useful insects destroy up to 90 percent of the caterpillars of various types of pests even in the marketable fruit orchards. The method of utilizing useful insects is simple but requires considerable agricultural knowledge. Therefore, chemical agents must be used in conjunction with biological protection. However, agents which are not harmful to the insects protecting the orchards against the pests must be used in any type of spray. Another modern method of biological protection for orchards that was developed by the Institute for Fruit Growing is to sterilize the most dangerous orchard pest--the apple-blossom moth--through radioactive radiation. This method, which was used in one of the experimental orchards, was capable of reducing the population of this pest. [Excerpt] [Gdansk GLOS WYBRZEZA in Polish 21 Jun 79 p 4]

CSO: 2602

TSETSE FLY CONTROL RESEARCH PLANNED

Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 22 Jul 79 p 1

[Text] An important K1 million research programme will be launched soon in Zambia to develop international techniques in tsetse fly control in Africa.

Director of the project — known as "tsetse applied research and training" — Dr David Baldry, said his team would work out methods to control tsetse menace at regional and sub-regional levels.

The programme is being sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme.

Dr Baldry noted that Africa's economic progress had been retarded because about ten million square kilometres of her land was infected with tsetse flies.

He said: "A large proportion of this land surface is regarded unusable because of tsetse fly or is suitable for limited utilisation."

One-third of Zambia — about 250,000 square kilometres — is virtually shut out to human usage because of the tsetse flies.

Recently, the flies caused an outbreak of sleeping sickness in Luangwa district.

Dr Baldry said in an inter-

view that although some countries had been tackling the tsetse fly problem at national levels, the results had not been effective because flies crossed frontiers and returned afterwards.

The project had been planned to make countries where tsetse flies existed to involve their neighbours in battling the menace.

He said: "It has been realised that in order for control measures to have an impact, the problem has to be tackled at international level."

The programme will take three years to complete. And economic benefits will include lower livestock mortality and morbidity.

He said there would also be improved nutrition, particularly among children, as a direct result of increased livestock production.

Dr Baldry reported that his team would closely work with the National Council for Scientific Research, the departments of veterinary and tsetse control services and wildlife and national parks.

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